companies may not be able to arrange for necessary resources to provide this facility to old dealers.

Complaint Against depot Manager Ambala Cantt.

2738. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaint against Depot Manager HPC Ambala Cantt. is pending regarding theft of Lubricating Oil through bogus invoices, sale of furnace oil to bogus/closed units on Bogus C forms and adulteration of kerosene in Petrol etc.

(b) whether the excise and taxation department of Haryana Government is also conducting enquiry on this issue;

(c) what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken against the said Depot Incharge/Manager;

(d) whether the Corporation is going to give some reward to such officers for this said bravery; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. had received a pseudonymous complaint that the Depot Incharge of Ambala Depot has allegedly indulged in irregularities like release of Furance Oil to closed units, adulteration of petrol with kerosene and release of adulterated petrol to dealers, release of lube oil against fabricate challans, selling of Lubes without bills and challans, etc. The complaint against officers/staff was investigated by the Corporation. It was found that the documentation procedures laid down for sale of lubricants were not adhered to. The operating status of a few establishments from which orders for Furnace oil had been received, was not verified resulting in sale of product to a non-operative unit. The allegation regarding adulteration of petrol was not substantiated. Disciplinary action was initiated in accordance with the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules of the Corporation against the Depot Manager and the penalty of "withholding annual increment" in 1996 was imposed on him. Government is not aware of any inquiry conducted by Excise & Taxation Deptt. of Haryana Govt. in the matter.

I.O.C. Offering equity to Foreign Companies

2739. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.O.C. is offering equity to foreign companies at its new refineries;

(b) whether any long term policy has been formulated by Government on the future role of I.O.C. in the Oil refineries sector;

(c) to what extent are IOC's Oil refineries activities profitable;

(d) whether low productivity is a major problem for IOC refineries;

(e) whether study has been done on the impact of the refineries sector of IOC on its distribution efficiency; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) yes. Sir. Govt. has approved on 14.7.98 setting up of a 9 MMTPA grassroot refinery at Abhayachandrapur, Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crore based on May, 1998 prices through Joint Venture Company between Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). The